

Notes from Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council
Meeting of October 18, 2005 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
Arizona State Capitol Building, Second Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Arizona

Call to Order at 1:05 PM

The first meeting of the Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council was opened and called to order by Don Butler (Department of Agriculture) and Duane Shroufe (Game and Fish Department).

Attendees and guests at the meeting are recorded on the attached sign-in record.

The Governor's Executive Order (2005-09, Invasive Species Advisory Council) was reviewed with the Council. An overview slide show was presented to set the stage for further discussion and planning for completion of the charges in the Executive Order.

The Council members discussed their approach to decision making as a Council. Council membership agreed that:

- The Council could form working groups to address specific charges and responsibilities, and that those working groups could have broader membership than the membership of the Council.
- Work groups could make recommendations to the Council for the Council's consideration.
- Council would discuss and consider recommendations from work groups, and could adopt recommendations from work groups, could modify recommendations from work groups for adoption, or could choose not to adopt a recommendation from a work group. Decisions would be made by consensus to the greatest extent possible.

Potential Approach to Invasive Species Management in Arizona

The Council discussed goals for this meeting and approaches to completion of the tasks outlined in the Executive Order.

Discussion included:

- Tapping into other existing activities relevant to Invasive Species,
- Identifying what other states have done and the use of working groups,
- Addressing invasive species by level of urgency, a species based approach,
- Getting the federal government more involved at the level of the Council,
- Should the Arizona Department of Health Services be involved in this Council,
- Identifying short and long-term priorities so that we don't lose track of urgent items while we work on organizational items,

- Review of current status of invasive species management in Arizona, including an examination of state agencies and identifying how State roles and authorities complement the roles of others (NGOs and Federal roles),
- It was suggested that working across boundaries was an important concept for addressing invasive species issues, and
- Developing a matrix of ‘who is doing what’ in order to better understand how to link invasive species authorities, roles, and actions together.

Discussion turned to a working definition for Invasive Species for the efforts of this Council. As background material for discussion, a working white paper developed by the National Invasive Species Advisory Committee was circulated and used as support material for discussion purposes. The background document was Draft 4 of the “Invasive Species Definition Clarification and Guidance White Paper” recently used by the National ISAC to frame discussion about definitions. The Definition from the Federal Executive Order (13122) identifies an invasive species as:

An alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

By consensus, the Council determined that it would adopt the federal definition as the initial working definition, and that the definition could be subject to modification and final adoption at a later date.

Council Mode of Operation

Council meetings will be operated to conform with the requirements of the Arizona Open Meeting Law. While work group meetings, gatherings of small groups of Council Members to conduct work, are not Council Meetings, they will be operated in the Spirit of the Open Meeting Law.

Initiation of Agency Self Evaluations – Evaluation of current statutory authorities, rules, and programs relevant to invasive species.

The Council reviewed an approach to collection of information from state agencies regarding their existing authorities, programs, activities, and estimated expenditures. The tool reviewed was a draft letter to Agency directors with an attached form requesting information. Council discussed the letter and form and suggested the addition of requests for information that would include an open-ended request for identification of opportunities to improve coordination and efficiency and additional comments. Council members suggested that the form be modified into a tool to collect this information ‘electronically’ or directly into a database for ready use. It was decided to modify the information collection tool to an electronic format for distribution. It was further decided to distribute that information collection tool beyond relevant state agencies to include Federal partners and NGOs. The tool should be distributed for return by December 15, 2005.

An Approach to Strategic Planning for Invasive Species in Arizona

The Council discussed the approach and format for potential organization of invasive species planning for Arizona. The Executive Summary from the National Invasive Species Management Plan was distributed as an example approach to organization of an Arizona Plan.

Discussion focused on the principle elements of the National Management Plan as an organizational format. Those elements included:

- Leadership and Coordination
- Prevention
- Early Detection and Rapid Response
- Control and Management
- Restoration
- International Cooperation
- Research
- Information Management
- Education and Public Awareness

Discussion focused on organization and development of work groups associated with the National Management Plan's outline, and meeting specific needs of Arizona. Council members wanted to focus on 'what we can affect, and how we can allocate resources'. Working groups were identified to address elements relevant to Arizona. Working groups fell into the following categories based upon consensus of the Council:

- Leadership, Coordination, and Inter-jurisdictional Coordination
- Anticipation (Prevention, Deterrence) and Outreach
- Research and Information Management
- Control and Management (to include Early Detection, Rapid Response, and Restoration)

Work groups self selected from among the Council members. Work group membership included but were not limited to:

Work Group	Membership
Leadership and Coordination	Bruce Eilerts, ADOT; Patti Fenner, SWVMA; Doc Lane, AZ Cattle Growers; Bart Worthington, Arizona Nursery Association
Anticipation and Outreach	Jody Latimer, ASLD Brian Moorehead, Salt River Project Glenn Fahringer, Arizona Landscape Association

	Larry Riley, AGFD
Research and Information Management	John Hall, TNC Jeff Lovich, USGS Carolyn Sieg, USFS Guy McPhearson, UofA Ed Northam
Control and Management	Herb Guenther/Bill Werner, ADWR; Joanne Roberts/Dan Shine, ASP Dr. John Brock, ASU Steve Fenn Doc Lane

Working Groups were tasked with meeting between this meeting and December for the purpose of developing an outline for presentation at the next Council Meeting. Summary from this meeting would be prepared by Larry for distribution.

Next meeting was proposed for January. Proposed date was January 24th in the afternoon.

Assignment to work groups was to develop initial drafts in the form of a 'meaty outline' for discussion at a January meeting. Material could be discussed at the January meeting.

Meeting adjourned and work groups assembled for discussion.

Notes were revised per Council discussion and direction on January 24, 2006.